

READING

My Epiphany Moment by Mariam Khan

- 1 Let's go back to about a year ago. We're in the middle of a recession, there are salary cuts, and unemployment is rocketing. It dawns on me—what if something happens to *me*? To my job? I work in an employment agency specializing in the arts. But what if I'm left with *no way* to pay my bills or buy groceries? This scenario kept playing over and over in my head. Would I have to move back in with my parents? What would I do? How could I stay healthy, happy and secure without a job or the means to live my life the way I want and like to? It was like I was at a crossroads and somehow I had to choose a new direction.
- 2 It wasn't easy, but then I suddenly had a flash of inspiration—and that moment would be my turning point... my epiphany moment, if you like. I saw the light! I understood what I had to do, and I decided to set up my own company. Yes, I set up *Creative Consulting*. I realized that there were many other well-qualified professionals who might be out of work and need help finding an opening. So I decided to set up my own agency and help these people find jobs that satisfy them. It's called *Creative Consulting* because I want to help people who work in the arts—movies, dance, music, painting—you name it!
- 3 I've come to find that my work can offer so much. It also allows me to meet really talented people and develop a network of contacts I could not have imagined. Suddenly, I feel I have a role in the community. I'm not only helping myself, but also others. And every day, I feel I understand people better, both their personal and professional needs. My job is to find them a creative solution, an outlet for them to be what they want to be.
- 4 So, that was my epiphany moment. Not everyone's had one, but I'm glad I have. Starting my own company was the best decision I've ever made because for the first time I am in charge, I'm my own boss.
- 5 Has there been a moment in your life when it all clicked? Where it all came together and everything made sense? When you overcame a great obstacle? A defining moment when everything changed? If the answer is yes, I want to hear your story! Please take a moment to share your "Epiphany Moment" by leaving a post on my website.

 Read the rest of the blog post. Match headings a–e to paragraphs 1–5.

- a Describing the moment of change
- b Summing up
- c Flashback to a past event
- d Addressing the reader
- e The present situation

 Read the post again. Mark the sentences true (T) or false (F). Correct the false sentences.

- 1 Mariam thought she might lose her job.
- 2 Mariam says that the decision to leave her job was easy to make.
- 3 She thinks that the company will help others, but not her.
- 4 The company has helped her meet some creative people.

 Find expressions in paragraphs 1 and 2 that mean...

- 1 a time of economic difficulty
- 2 going up quickly
- 3 repeating again and again
- 4 at a decisive moment
- 5 a time when an important change takes place